

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04808 081146Z

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ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 L-03 /035 W

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R 081102Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3401

UNCLAS TUNIS 4808

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TS

SUBJ: LEASE CHARTER AND INTERCHANGE OF AIRCRAFT IN  
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 145425

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON CHIEF OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES,  
COMMERCIAL DIRECTION, TUNIS AIR ON JULY 6 TO MAKE INQUIRIES  
PER REFTEL. FOLLOWING INFORMATION BASED ON THIS INTERVIEW  
DESPITE MINOR DIFFERENCES WITH TUNIS AIR PUBLICATIONS. BASIC  
PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM LEASING OF AIRCRAFT BY TUNIS AIR CON-  
SISTS OF THREE BOEING 707 AIRCRAFT FROM PERIOD APRIL 1 THROUGH  
END OF SEPTEMBER EACH SUMMER IN ORDER TO HANDLE TOURIST TRAFFIC.  
AIRCRAFT ARE LEASED FROM BRITISH MIDLAND AIRWAYS EACH YEAR AND  
REGISTRATION REMAINS WITH U.K. DURING THIS PERIOD. BRITISH  
MIDLAND AIRWAYS REP IN RESIDENCE IN TUNIS DURING LEASE PERIOD  
TO HELP PERFORM NECESSARY SERVICES PURSUANT TO LEASING  
ARRANGEMENTS.

2. OTHER LEASING ARRANGMENTS ARE CONFINED WITHOUT EXCEPTION  
TO THREE-TO-FOUR DAY PERIODS DURING EASTER, ASCENSION DAY  
AND PENTECOST WEEKENDS IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE LARGE  
NUMBER OF PRINCIPALLY FRENCH TOURISTS ARRIVING IN TUNISIA  
FOR BRIEF HOLIDAY STAYS, PLUS HADJ. LEASING ARRANGMENTS  
FOR EASTER HOLIDAY ANNUALLY INCLUDE TWO BOEING 747'S, ONE  
FROM MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES AND ONE FROM KLM. ASCENSION DAY  
REQUIREMENTS ARE SLIGHTLY GREATER AND ANNUAL NEEDS HAVE BEEN  
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 04808 081146Z

FULFILLED BY TWO 747'S AND TWO DC-8 AIRCRAFT. THE 747'S

ARE LEASED FROM MIDDLE EAST AND THE DC-8'S FROM KLM. DURING PENTECOST HOLIDAY TUNIS AIR HAS REGULARLY LEASED ONE 747, TWO DC-8'S AND ONE AIRBUS. UNDER ALL OF THE ABOVE SHORT-TERM LEASING ARRANGMENTS KLM AIRCRAFT REMAIN REGISTERED WITH THE NETHERLANDS AND ME WITH LEBANON. THE AIRCRAFT ARE PAINTED, HOWEVER, WITH TUNIS AIR MARKINGS.

3. DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS TUNIS AIR HAS ANNUALLY LEASED ONE DC-8 FROM OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRWAYS(SEATING CAPACITY 262 PERSONS) FOR THE ISLAMIC PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. THE LENGTH OF THE LEASE IS USUALLY TEN DAYS FOR THE HADJ AND THE AIRCRAFT IS IN SERVICE NEARLY CONTINUALLY DURING THE TEN-DAY PERIOD FERRYING PILGRIMS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND MECCA. NUMBER OF TUNISIAN PILGRIMS IS LIMITED AND DETERMINED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS BY THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AND IS GENERALLY IN THE VICINITY OF 5,000. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED LIMITS FOR 1976 AND ALTHOUGH TUNIS AIR HAS THEREFORE NOT YET ENTERED INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR LEASING OF AIRCRAFT FOR THIS YEAR, IT IS ANTICIPATED BY TUNIS AIR AUTHORITIES THAT ONE DC-8 FROM ONA WILL SUFFICE.

4. STATISTICS OBTAINED BY EMBOFF FROM TUNIS AIR INDICATE THAT 14,000 PASSENGERS TRAVELLED ON AIRCRAFT LEASED TO TUNIS AIR IN 1975. TUNIS AIR AUTHORITIES THUS SEE LITTLE CHANGE IN LEASING REQUIRMENTS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

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